



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
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USDA Rural Development Offers Office Hours in Pocahontas County

Morgantown, WV – March 10, 2006: State Director Robert M. Steptoe, III today announced that in an effort to accommodate more rural West Virginians, Rural Development will hold office hours in Buckeye, Pocahontas County, WV, from 10:00 AM to Noon every fourth (4th) Thursday of the month, effective April 2006.

Rural Development will be available in the conference room of the USDA Service Center located 2 miles south of Marlinton on Route 219 at RR 2, Box 51A, Buckeye, WV 24924. The telephone number to contact a USDA representative during these office hours is (304) 799.4317 and the fax number is (304) 799.7289.

Representatives will be available to discuss Rural Development programs with the public, take applications and assist existing customers. You can also contact Rural Development in the Lewisburg office at 179 Northridge Drive, Lewisburg, WV 24901 (telephone (304) 645.7422; fax (304) 647.9627; and TTY/TDD (304) 284.4836).

Rural Development serves as the lead Federal entity for rural development needs and administers program assistance through its rural housing programs, rural business programs, and rural utilities programs. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

Further information on USDA Rural Development may be obtained by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>. In West Virginia, call 1-800-295-8228 to be put in touch with the appropriate personnel serving your county. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202.720.2600 (voice and TDD).

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

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To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).